HAM
COLL
WQ
H193

EDITORIAL
Climate action on the Hill
Members of the Sustainability Working Group outline goals for the future **page 4**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Student Spotlight
A conversation with Charlie Guterman '22 on her creative process and more **page 11**

SPORTS
Qualified
Men's and women's golf earn bids to NESCAC Championships with strong fall play **page 16**

18|47 The Spectator

The Spectator

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Volume LX
Number VI

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Students join Clinton community for Off the Hill Challenge and Fall Fest

PHOTO COURTESY OF IOANNIS MAKRIDIS '22

Community members of all ages took advantage of the warm fall day on Saturday by participating in a variety of Fall Fest activities, including the Off the Hill Challenge, pumpkin painting, and a sampling of the Clinton Cider Mill's autumnal offerings.

by Erica Ivins '21
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 5, the annual Fall Festival took place on the Clinton Village Green. The event took place between 12 and 4 PM. Many members of the Clinton community joined Hamilton College students at the event, which featured a variety of fall activities.

Hamilton Student Assembly's (SA) Social Traditions Committee collaborated with the Clinton Chamber of Commerce to host the event.

Various student-led organizations and local businesses participated in the festivities, encouraging visitors to play games, eat seasonal foods, and visit local shops.

Fall Fest activities included SA's corn hole, "giant" Connect Four, and a pumpkin-painting stand hosted by members of the Black and Latinx Student Union (BLSU).

The a cappella groups Tumbling After and the Hamiltone's performed under the Gazebo for the community and students. Food from The Cider Mill and Northstar Orchards, including apple cider, donuts, chili, cookies, and chowder, was available.

President of the Class of 2020 Nadav Konforty '20 spoke positively about the ways in which Fall Fest helps the Clinton community and Hamilton students bond, saying the event "provides an opportunity for students to explore Clinton in a more structured way, like the Off the Hill Challenge, to facilitate those connections.

Konforty added that having the event "in the center of Clinton brings in students as well as families with activities, food, and music, all of which are great for community bonding."

The Off the Hill Challenge Konforty references is a Fall Fest tradition developed by SA, wherein students are tasked to visit 12 local businesses in Clinton and collect stamps to show that they went to each location. This gives them the opportunity to interact with local business owners and sample the products of each store.

A free shirt was awarded to the first 100 students who completed the Challenge; everyone who completed the Challenge was also entered into a raffle for a $100 gift card to shops in town.

"While community involvement isn't its own pillar in Hamilton's educational goals and curriculum, it is certainly in the spirit of Hamilton to foster community," Konforty said. "Hamilton is our home, and community involvement is a part of strengthening the foundations of our community.

"Community involvement is central to any liberal arts institution that values community, and Hamilton is a shining example of that."

Olivia Wenzel '21, member of the all-female identifying a cappella group Tumbling After, said she believes Fall Fest has a positive effect on the Hamilton community.

"I think that sometimes Hamilton can be kind of a bubble, and Fall Fest gives students a chance to explore some of the things they can do off-campus," she said. "I do think that community involvement is important to Hamilton's liberal arts goals, and I think it is important for us to be not just Hamilton students, but to interact in a positive way with whatever community we are a part of."

According to Wenzel, Tumbling After is able to engage with a new audience through the experience of performing in Clinton.

"Many of the people who were watching us perform were members of the Clinton community, which is not something that can usually be said for our concerts," she said. "I think it's a really unique opportunity not only for us to be able to share what we love with people outside Hamilton, but also for the Clinton community to see some of what Hamilton students do."

The 12 businesses participating in the day's events were Giovanni's Pizzeria, Clinton Florist, Artisans' Corner, Dawn Marie's Treasures, The Cremeria, Lost Hi-Way Books & Records, Tom's Natural Foods, Utica Coffee Roasters, Rose Petal Gifts, The Village Crossing, Almost Local, Krizia Martin Apparel Giftware, and Soul Bowl.

Overall, Konforty says the event was a success and enjoyed seeing Hamilton students interact with the Clinton community.

"I believe students find the food to be one of the best parts, or that could just be my own personal preference. I do also love hearing the a cappella groups perform," he said.

Still, Konforty emphasized that "one of the most enjoyable aspects of Fall Fest for students is likely going into stores that they may not otherwise frequent and exploring the community that is so nearby."

La Vanguardia marks 35th anniversary at Hamilton with day of celebrations

by Kaitlyn Fudge '23
Contributing Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

The day started with a talk at the Days-Massolo Center featuring Larry Arias '84, one of the organization's founders, and Sandra Ortega '97, who served as the group's president during her time on the Hill.

This past Saturday, Oct. 5, La Vanguardia celebrated its 35th anniversary of becoming an organization at Hamilton. The event was sponsored by the Days-Massolo Center and La Vanguardia. La Vanguardia is a club that embraces and celebrates the Latinx community on campus and holds various events throughout the year.

The day began with a community talk at the Days-Massolo Center featuring a speech from one of La Vanguardia's original founders, Larry Arias '84. He discussed his struggles growing up, raising a family, and being the son of immigrants. He put added emphasis on the importance of taking pride in one's roots and heritage, in addition to detailing the challenges he experienced in helping to create La Vanguardia.

Both Arias and Danny Garcia '84 were members of BLSU (Black Latin Student Union) while they attended Hamilton but say they did not find the sense of community they were looking for. This prompted them to try to make their own club, but they were met with great difficulty in doing so.

Throughout Hamilton's history, Latinx students have faced an array of challenges in their attempts to create a sense of community and belonging for themselves. As Arias outlined, there were not many Latinx students on campus while he attended Hamilton, which he said made it difficult to start a club dedicated to celebrating Latinx culture.

At the talk, there was also discussion about how the popularity of the club has varied throughout the years. Sandra Ortega '97, who served as treasurer, vice-president, and president of La Vanguardia during her time at Hamilton, recalled being one of few Latinx students on campus and said La Vanguardia was like a second home for her; she added that she hopes that it will embody a similar role for future students as well.

The talk ended around 12:30 PM, and the group moved from the Days-Massolo Center to the Events Barn, where there was plenty of food waiting. Tostones, empanadas, and arroz con gandules were some of the most popular foods. There was an opportunity for attendees to sit, eat, and catch up with each other.

After about a half-hour, alumni and current students discussed the importance of La Vanguardia in their life, and how it has had a lasting impact since its creation 35 years ago.

For dessert there was flan, and it was gone almost instantly. Following the meal, the next event was a "block party" held in the Events Barn. At this point, people walked around and got to know everyone in attendance and listened to the music.

Conversations between alumni and current students centered on their thoughts and hopes for the future of La Vanguardia. Many said they hope that La Vanguardia continues to support and embrace Latinx students on campus and gains more members from future class years.

Andy Burns '78 honored as Volunteer of the Year for lifetime of service

by Jonina Mignon '21
Staff Writer

While entertaining parents and friends during Family and Fallcoming Weekend from Sept. 27–29, Hamilton also welcomed its alumni back to the Hill with reunions, celebrations, and talks with College President Wippman. The Office of Alumni Relations, in conjunction with other College offices, organized various events for alumni including President Wippman's State of the College address, musical performances, sports games, and information sessions.

Among these events, alumni also took the time to reconnect and recognize each other for their significant contributions to Hamilton, specifically through the Jeff Little '71 Volunteer of the Year Award. This award, named in honor of trustee and alumnus Jeff Little, recognizes a former Hamilton student, parent, or friend of the College whose volunteering has made a substantial impact.

This year, the honor went to Andy Burns '78, an alumnus with a long, storied history in Clinton. As the twelfth person in his family to attend Hamilton, Burns has spent much of his life involved with the College, from going up the Hill to attend football and hockey games as a child, to studying on campus as an undergrad, and finally, contributing to the College's programs as an alumnus.

After his graduation, Burns founded Kirkland Ventures, an organization that brought together the College and surrounding businesses to promote and stimulate local economic growth. Burns also focused his efforts on significant non-profit pursuits, perhaps most notably through the creation of Hamilton's Town-Gown Fund, which donates to Clinton schools and various non-profit organizations in the local community.

Last year, the Town-Gown fund awarded the John G. Karin Kirkland Town Park $16,000 for improvements and new equipment. The park was one of eight local recipients of the Town-Gown Fund's yearly donation. Since its creation in 2001, the Fund has donated over $843,000 to 23 different public service and non-profit organizations in the greater town of Kirkland.

As a lifelong hockey fan, Burns's contributions to the sport have resonated not just throughout Hamilton College but the broader community. In addition to spending hundreds of hours of researching hockey and its role in building relationships between the College and the community, Burns played a pivotal part in organizing the 100 Years of Hamilton Hockey celebration last year. Furthermore, Burns, along with other volunteers, brought together both Hamilton College and Clinton community members to catalyze Clinton's successful bid for the title of Kraft Hockeyville USA last year.

Though he no longer lives in Clinton, Burns has remained steadfast in his devotion to Hamilton. He maintains connections with the multiple organizations he founded to enhance community relationships, including the Town-Gown Fund and Alumni Council, and he takes part in a number of campus programs through the Career Center and reunion committees. In North Carolina, where he currently resides with his wife Julia, he has opened up his home to traveling Hamilton sports teams, Alternative Spring Break volunteers, and members of musical groups.

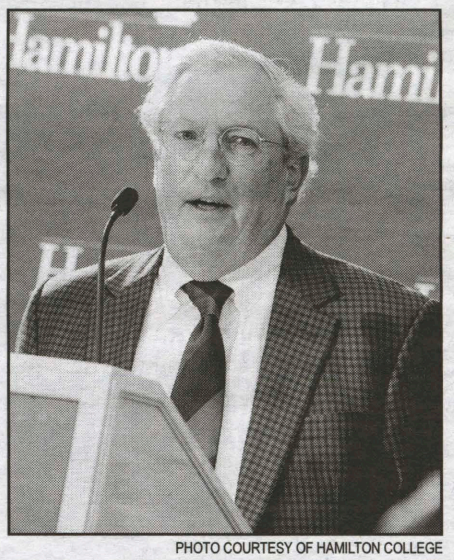

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Andy Burns '78 (above)

Burns often expresses his gratitude to the College for his liberal arts education and for the lifelong friendships he has gained over his years involved with the school; the Jeff Little '71 Volunteer of the Year Award is meant to reciprocate such gratitude and to thank Burns for his ongoing commitment and contributions to the College.

SA finalizes funding decisions, clarifies use of discretionary fund

by Natalie Halpin '21
News Editor

On Monday, Sept. 16, the Student Assembly (SA) convened to vote on funding requests from student organizations to begin the process of allocating its budget to the College's many student groups. According to the minutes from the meeting, "Student Assembly funding comes from a combination of all students' annual activity fees."

All requests submitted by the Sept. 13 deadline were considered during an eleven-hour Funding Committee meeting on Sept. 15.

According to SA President Amanda Kim, the SA budget of $80,913.53 (with a strategic budget of $57,774.19) "seems smaller this semester because of some reorganizing of the Student Activities budget."

The total funds requested by all clubs amounted to $120,967.58. Total strategic funding for the semester as recommended by the Funding Committee totaled $54,156.31.

During the meeting, clubs including League of Legends Club, History Club, and Philanthropy Committee were not considered due to late submissions.

For League of Legends Club, the delay was due to technical difficulties and the motion to fund the $6,459.90 as recommended passed unanimously. There was a discussion about installing the game on computers in the Kirner-Johnson building and whether or not these computers should exclusively be used for academic purposes.

Feminist of Color Collective's request for $4,930 passed unanimously after SA discussed whether or not to fund the organization's request to accomodate an alumni guest.

On The Move's request for $1,001.01 in funding was approved unanimously as well. On The Move is a club whose main goal is to strengthen the relationship between Utica's refugee population and Hamilton. According to the club's co-president Emma Ritz '20, their funding request was mainly informed by food needs for the group's fashion show for international students on campus.

SA debated whether or not to provide Scottish Country Dancing Club with the funding to purchase shoes after club members explained that the footwear is necessary to prevent injury and not all students have the resources to make this purchase independently. The motion to approve $369.48 for the team was approved.

Due to potential conflicts with the Funding Code, requests for funding by a cappella groups were tabled for further discussion.

This year, SA funding decisions resonated beyond the weekly meeting and grew into a larger campus issue with the appearance of posters around campus on Friday, Oct. 4. The posters detailed a student complaint, questioning why certain organizations were refused funding while SA purchased quarter-zips for their members, with the poster maker implying that this money was being misused.

Addressing the controversy, Kim said she met with the individual who put up the posters, who wishes to remain anonymous. Kim explained that the budget used to purchase the quarter-zips, which comes from a discretionary fund, is separate from the non-strategic budget used to fund student organizations. This discretionary fund is not subject to the same funding codes as the student organization budget, and is therefore set aside for SA to use at its discretion.

After this meeting, Kim reported back to SA that the student apologized to SA and took down the posters.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency, *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous week's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, October 3

12:12 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy West Residence Hall
6:29 A.M. Medical Emergency – Woolcott Residence
7:35 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Bundy West Residence Hall
11:25 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Wertimer House
8:19 P.M. Trouble Alarm – South Residence Hall
8:48 P.M. Complaint – Main Quad
9:01 P.M. Fire Alarm – Milbank Residence Hall
9:56 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Morris House

Friday, October 4

7:32 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Johnson Health Center
7:53 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Taylor Science Center
8:52 A.M. Fire Alarm – 95 College Hill Road
11:44 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Griffin Road Apartments
12:21 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Milbank Residence Hall
2:05 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Griffin Road Apartments
5:59 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Griffin Road Apartments
9:00 P.M. Fire Alarm – 1 Anderson Road
9:32 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Milbank Residence Hall
10:20 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Root Residence Hall

Saturday, October 5

12:45 A.M. Tow Vehicle – Siuda House
12:48 A.M. Noise Complaint – Morris House
2:06 A.M. Trouble Alarm – Johnson Health Center
2:26 P.M. Complaint – Bundy East Residence Hall
3:58 P.M. Area Check – South Campus
4:01 P.M. Area Check – South Campus
4:13 P.M. Area Check – North Campus
8:11 P.M. Noise Complaint – Saunders House
8:51 P.M. Noise Complaint – South Residence Hall

Sunday, October 6

12:22 A.M. Medical Emergency – Bundy Circle
12:41 A.M. Medical Emergency – Bundy West Residence Hall
1:00 A.M. Area Check – Beinecke Village: Fillius Events Barn
1:53 A.M. Noise Complaint – Dunham Residence Hall
9:17 A.M. Trouble Alarm – On Campus
12:31 P.M. Motorist Assist – Morris House
4:02 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Johnson Health Center
11:32 P.M. Area Check – South Campus

Monday, October 7

1:14 A.M. Area Check – North Campus
4:22 P.M. Complaint – South Campus

Tuesday, October 8

3:28 A.M. Area Check – South Campus
11:27 A.M. Complaint – On Campus Other Location
1:48 P.M. Medical Emergency – Bundy West Residence Hall
4:01 P.M. Trouble Alarm – Little Pub

Letter to the Editor

Climate action on the Hill

As hundreds of students, faculty, and staff at Hamilton joined millions of people around the world recently to demand climate action in the face of the ever-worsening climate crisis, we the members of the Sustainability Working Group (SWG), write to reaffirm our commitment to advancing climate action and sustainability. We invite you to join us in developing Hamilton's path forward.

Hamilton College is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. What does carbon neutrality mean? It means we must either eliminate all of the carbon pollution coming from our buildings, our vehicles, our electricity, and our travel, or we must remove an equivalent amount of carbon from the atmosphere by purchasing carbon offsets. Our commitment is aligned with the latest science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which calls for 45% reductions by 2030 and 100% reductions by 2050 to avoid dangerous climate change.

So, how are we doing? In 2007, we emitted 17,360 tons of CO 2 -equivalent. In 2018, we emitted 10,700 tons, a 38% reduction (6,661 tons reduced). The vast majority of this reduction (5,100 tons reduced) has occurred largely because the mix of power plants supplying the state's electrical grid has become greener around us, so each kilowatt-hour of electricity we use on campus today creates far less carbon pollution than a decade ago. But we also have reduced our actual on-site emissions by 4% due to multiple energy efficiency initiatives in our buildings, all while our campus itself has grown. From 2007-2018, our employee commuting emissions declined by 70%, and to continue this trend, we recently installed 10 electric vehicle charging stations. Collectively, these are the first steps toward climate action.

So, what's next? Over the summer the College formed our working group composed of students, faculty, and staff to serve as the coordinating body for our campus-wide efforts. The group is charged with developing a sustainability plan and updating our existing **Climate Action Plan** to chart our climate action path forward. We want to ask big questions and advocate for solutions – both big and small – that make sense to advance the College's progress. How should we heat our buildings in the future? What is the pathway to reducing our vehicle fleet emissions? Does the 2050 target date still make sense? Should we purchase offsets or not? How do we prepare for climate impacts on campus? And, importantly, how can we align our educational and sustainability goals in ways that make sense for the Hamilton community?

Answering all the complex questions about how to achieve neutrality will take a sustained campus-wide conversation, lots of hard work, foresight, and time. To engage the campus community in the conversation, we will host several campus-wide forums to generate climate action ideas. We also invite you to submit your ideas directly via this form: **http://tinyurl.com/HamiltonClimate**

We stand behind the argument that decarbonization in the next 30 years is urgent for our campus, for our state, for our country, and for our planet. Doing it right involves the whole campus community.

Authored by: Aaron Strong, Brian Hansen, Carol Gable, Karen Leach and Roger Wakeman, organizing members of the Sustainability Working Group. Additional members of the Sustainability Working Group include: Naomi Guttman, Andrea Townsend, Andrew Jillings, Ashley Place, Reuben Haag, Don Croft, Claire Curran '20, and Juliet Davidson '23.

twitter
Follow us
@HCSpectator

Visit *The Spectator* online:
spec.hamilton.edu
facebook.com/hcspectator

Please Recycle Your Copy of *The Spectator*

Celebrating 171 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

The Spectator

Editor-in-Chief
Will Kaback

Managing Editors
Josie Blatt
Amanda Kim
Gavin Meade

News Editors
Natalie Halpin
Jonina Mignon

Opinion Editors
Peter Case
Alex Reboredo

Sports Editors
Jo Dine
Catherine McFarland

Features Editors
Claire Goldstein
Cliff Musial

A&E Editors
Karina Bayrakdarian
Emma Mae Regan

Head Production Editor
Genevieve Cohen

Production Editors
Mary Beringause
Stephanie Chin
Haley Hassell
Julie Kokot
Sarah Swinson

Senior Editors
Allie Duggan
Ben Katz
Melanie Snyder
Bethany Vickery

Web Editor
Jack Carroll

Social Media Editors
Laura Rodriguez
Josh Vega

Advertising Manager
Mukund Jayaram

Copy Editors

Isabel Bates, Kayla Beardslee, Madeleine Cavallino, David Frank, Desiree Pico, Clara Walling, Allanah Wood

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

DREW ANDERSON '21
OPINION COLUMNIST

Zelensky the Sycophant

Every day now, the case for Trump's impeachment increases in strength amidst a growing quantity of testimony and the recent appearance of a second whistleblower from within the United States' intelligence community. The evidence against Trump is damning; he has now asked not one but two countries to investigate one of his staunchest political opponents. When he asked Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, there was $400 million in military aid hanging in the balance. Meanwhile, the evidence against the actions of the Trump administration grows weekly.

Despite the scrutiny brought against President Trump and his inept administration, the foreign leader on the other end of the line, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, has largely escaped the same degree of scrutiny.

While we still may not have the full story of exactly what was said between President Donald Trump and President Zelensky because the memo is not a verbatim transcript of the call, Zelensky's telegraphed responses reveal the rotten core at the heart of Donald Trump's pay-to-play presidency. According to the memorandum, at the start of the call President Zelensky declared that he and his Servant of the People party "did win big" in the recent Ukrainian parliamentary elections; Zelensky also noted how he "had an opportunity to learn from [Trump]" and "used quite a few of [Trump's] skills and knowledge."

In his next response to Trump, President Zelensky once again referenced Trump's jargon, noting that "[Ukraine] wanted to drain the swamp" and bring in "many many new people [...] because we want to have a new format and a new type of government. You are a great teacher for us and in that." Trump responded to Zelensky's praise by throwing him and his country under the bus without remorse, even in the midst of over five years of Russian military presence in the Crimea and Donbas regions of Ukraine. According to Trump, however, "The United States has been very good to Ukraine [...] I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal."

"Diplomacy should be about negotiation. Between allies, it should be made in good heart and with respect and trust at the center of relations."

After Trump told him that the United States was the victim of U.S.-Ukraine relations, President Zelensky doubled down on his sycophantic approach, telling President Trump that "Yes you are absolutely right. Not only 100%, but actually 1000%."

Both leaders were willing to criticize their European Union allies, even though the E.U. is the largest donor to Ukraine and has averaged almost twice as much total aid for defense and for economic development per year than the United States since 2015, according to factcheck.org.

With around $400 million in military aid up in the air, President Zelensky brought up the withheld defense funds by thanking Trump "for [his] great support in the area of defense," suggesting that Ukraine was "almost ready to buy more Javelins from the United States." Of course, that comment preceded Trump's demand that he would like President Zelensky "to do us a favor," with reference to an investigation into a Russian-aligned conspiracy theory surrounding the security firm Crowdstrike. This theory has been largely peddled by Russian trolls and far-right fanatics.

All this is utterly troubling: a foreign leader agreed to phony investigations and our President trash-talked our closest allies in Europe. Near the end of the call, President Zelensky pulled out the trump card of subservient compliments to Donald Trump. He declared: "Actually last time I traveled to the United States, I stayed in New York near Central Park and I stayed at the Trump Tower." Give me a break. If you Google the definition of 'suck up,' the example sentence is — I kid you not — "He has risen to where he is mainly by sucking up to the president."

Though we can already see the warning signs, time will continue to reveal the consequences of blind loyalty to an incompetent president. The price of entry to diplomacy should not be subservience and sycophantic and undeserved compliments.

Diplomacy should be about negotiation. Between allies, it should be made in good heart and with respect and trust at the center of relations. One could forgive President Zelensky for his indiscretion; with vital defense funding on hold to a country with regions under military occupation by Russian armed forces, it makes sense that Zelensky might be willing to scratch Donald Trump's back. But personal attempts to woo a sitting president through exaggerated compliments or supporting a President's family business should not weigh on a president's diplomatic decision making.

Near the end of the call, President Zelensky made one final smarmy remark, this time making sure President Trump knew how much he preferred Air Force 1 to the Ukraine executive's jet: "We can either take my plane and go to Ukraine or we can take your plane, which is probably much better than mine." Hopefully overly-flattering comments like these can only temporarily curry favor with the President of the United States.

Impeachment proceedings are patriotism at its best

by Gabriela De Mendonca Gomes '23
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

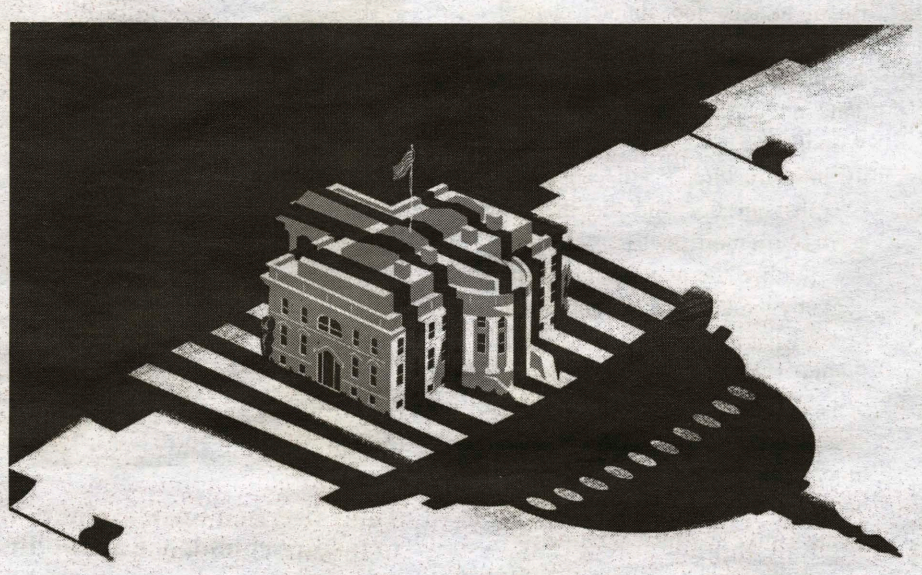

PHOTO OURTESY OF GOLDEN COSMOS

Democrats' impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump is not only legally sound, but patriotic, writes De Mendonca Gomes.

I will put this bluntly: Donald Trump has acted unpatriotically.

He has betrayed his oath to office by using his presidency for personal gain at the expense of the country. It all began with a phone call, stilted and one-sidedly reverential between Trump and the recently-elected Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky. In this call, the President of the United States calls on the President of Ukraine to "do us a favor" after Zelensky says that Ukraine is prepared to continue cooperating for U.S.-based military and financial aid.

Essentially, Trump asks for an investigation into the Bidens while making a veiled threat to freeze American aid to Ukraine and Zelensky, stuck between a rock and a hard place, agrees.

The content of this call eventually reached an anonymous official who became a whistleblower — the impetus of this potential impeachment. According to the whistleblower's complaint, "[t]he President of the United States [...] using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election" was so disturbing that the whistleblower filed an official complaint. Here we have a traitor being denounced by a patriot, with the latter realizing that the former's actions violated the integrity of his office and imperiled American democracy in an attempt to influence next year's elections.

Impeachment can be defined generally as the action of calling into question the integrity or validity of something, and specifically for the United States, it is a charge of misconduct made against one in public office. Impeachment, thus, is the manner in which America can secure the probity of the presidency, something Donald Trump has been undermining since even before he was president. Not only was Trump an unindicted co-conspirator in the Muller investigation, wherein he was consequently not exonerated of conspiracy, but Attorney General William Barr still jet-sets around the world attempting to prove that the Russians were not involved in the 2016 elections when his own government colleagues have established it so.

At the present moment, the impeachment process is not severe. It is the fair and patriotic action to pursue in this case of political and democratic treachery in which the White House is seeking to cover its own wrongdoings.

And the whistle-blower — even though he has been deemed "close to a spy" and thus worthy of execution by the president — is a humble patriot who started this process of constitutional safeguarding by doing what we're taught to when faced with suspicious circumstances: say something.

This incident, however, is largely being overlooked as "Trump being Trump," adding to the list of things his administration has done that has been swept under the rug. The current inquiry's credibility can only go as far as its source and their anonymity.

Simply letting "Trump be Trump" demonstrates passivity as opposed to the fierce patriotism many Republicans claim to embody. Because the President does not believe that American democracy has the capacity to confront the shady dealings within his administration, he has now drafted foreign countries to investigate his political opponents.

Actions speak louder than words, and this latest act of Trumpian egoism calls for a strong reaction: impeachment.

Concert attendance indicates student engagement

by Talia Rosen '23
Opinion Contributor

Email after email has hit all of our inboxes for the first month on campus, and I bet the majority of those emails have been swept to the trash or glanced over and left unread. Coming from a high school where email was not used to the extent it is on the Hill, I found the countless number of messages exciting yet overwhelming.

Now and then we have all seen subject lines about concerts around campus, such as "A CAPPELLA CONCERT TONIGHT!!!!" or "DAYGLOW!!! TODAY!!!" but I think even the all-caps subject line does not garner campus attention the way the sender hoped it would. However, I was certainly intrigued by these events, and I wanted to check out what Hamilton's music events were all about during my first month on the Hill.

Two weekends ago, Fallcoming and Family Weekend brought with it the annual a cappella concert. While attendance at this event was certainly affected by the masses of parents coming to see their children perform and alumni of these groups returning to campus, I was still surprised at the turn out. Friends and family of the singers filled the Chapel to the extent that I was squished at the end of a row after walking in just a few minutes late. Even the second floor of the chapel was filled, as everyone from all walks of campus seemed to be in attendance to cheer on and support their friends.

At my high school, many of the music events were not advertised like they are here; nor was information about them sent out to the entire school. Attendance suffered. However, here on the Hill, I was pleasantly surprised by how many people went out of their way to see the incredible talent of Hamilton's a cappella groups.

There were five groups that performed: Tumbling After, Duelly Noted, The Hamiltones, Special K, and The Buffers. The chapel continued to fill up throughout the show on both Friday and Saturday night. I expected Saturday night to be less crowded, but Hamilton students, once again, came out to support their friends and peers. I was blown away by the insane voices of my classmates. Although they must have only rehearsed for a few weeks, I could see (and hear) why so many other students and faculty wanted to be at this event.

The following week, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) advertised for a concert featuring Dayglow, a band from Austin, Texas, who were to perform in the Events Barn. The attendance for this event was not as high as it was for the a cappella concerts, but every table there was still filled. CAB also provided cookies, drinks, and stress balls, which may have enticed more students to show up. The performance was impressive, and everyone enjoyed themselves; people danced and hung out with friends. As the concert moved towards its end, some people trickled out, but the majority of people remained on the dance floor, singing and dancing along with Dayglow.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH JADBABAIE '21

Rosen says she is encouraged by student turnout at concerts and performance events to support their peers.

Even though these may have only been my first few music events at Hamilton, I highly recommend everyone checks at least some of these concerts out and sees the talented student body we have. There should be no concern that you will be one of the few people in attendance — as I noticed that at all these events, a large number of students come out to cheer on their friends and just enjoy the music.

College errs in prioritizing financial future over climate change mitigation strategies

by James Carhart '21
Opinion Contributor

Two weeks ago, as Family and Fallcoming Weekend was in full swing, I, along with three other students, attended a meeting with two members of the Board of Trustees, Chief of the Investment Committee Robert Delany, Chairman of the Board Stephen Sadove, and President of the College David Wippman.

The topic of discussion was the possibility of the College's divestment from fossil fuels and sharing general feelings about climate change at Hamilton College. The meeting lasted for a total of thirty minutes and mainly consisted of reasons why the College would not divest due to the fact that such a decision may hamper the College's ability to offer need-blind aid as well as plenty of other opportunities for students.

"An underlying point made during our talk was the desire for the College to be here in 100 years. Investments in fossil fuels, supposedly, will allow the institution to continue for that time period. However, does a hundred years matter when our world will be radically different in ten?"

The meeting felt like a capstone to a very tumultuous and confusing campaign aimed at pushing the administration and Board to take the climate change crisis seriously. The student body has had an issue understanding just what Hamilton has done in regards to safeguarding our future. Working closely inside of the sustainability infrastructure, I still cannot fully answer that question, and after this meeting it seems even more unclear.

Further, the punctuating counterpoint made by the three sitting opposite me was to ask what the students were going to do. Putting aside the obvious point that students do not have thirty million dollars invested in fossil fuels, it seemed cruel to ask more of students whom, in my experience, have done an immense amount of work to create a more sustainable future.

At the table were three students working as Sustainability Coordinators at the College were present. There are more than eight environmental groups on campus working towards creating a greener campus and culture. This coupled with the fact that a larger and larger portion of the Hamilton student body is concentrating in Environmental Studies goes far to show the commitment of students to sustainability. Why, then, is the onus on students to handle this?

We continue to devote our time to this issue, and we ask the same of our institution. Many of us attend classes concerning climate change and understand our place within this ever-evolving discourse. However, it becomes confusing when the very institution you attend teaches you the dangers of these companies while turning a blind eye to their investments in polluters.

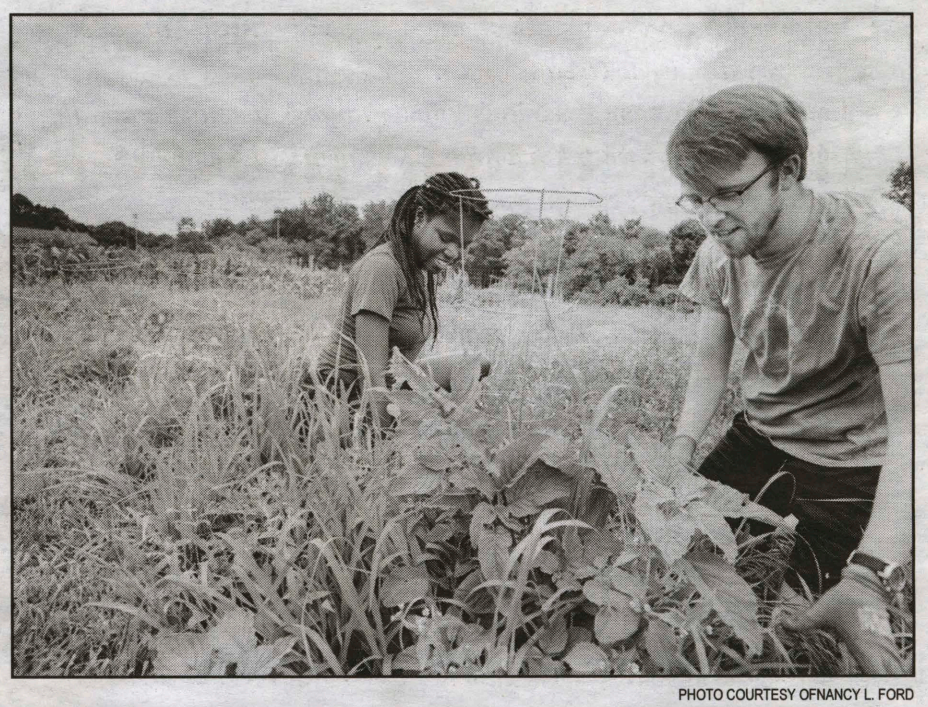

PHOTO COURTESY OFNANCY L. FORD

Talks between Sustainability Coordinators and College leaders failed to inspire confidence about divesting from fossil fuels, writes Carhart.

Where do we go from here? Hamilton fostered my appreciation for environmentalism. I started working in sustainability my sophomore year, and the longer I work for the school and the closer I get to the process, the less I am convinced that we are prepared for the future.

An underlying point made during our talk was the desire for the College to be here in 100 years. Investments in fossil fuels, supposedly, will allow the institution to continue for that time period. However, does a hundred years matter when our world will be radically different in ten?

At this point, I understand that divestment is not something the College is interested in. Finding some common ground is the only reasonable thing to ask for now. The meeting mentioned no future plans, offered no alternative roots towards more transparency, and for that matter, provided little information to disseminate to other students about the College's stances.

For that reason, I wish that we could start a dialogue or at least continue the conversation started during Fallcoming in order to persistently show the dedication of students, faculty, and staff towards combating the climate crisis on and off campus.

Bachelorette & Bachelorette

Ashley Huntington '20

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY HUNTINGTON '20

Hometown: *Tiffin, O.H.*
Home on Campus: *Milbank.*
Major: *Women's and Gender Studies (WAGS for short).*
Turn on? *Self-identified feminist.*
Turn off? *Self-identified econ major.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Anderson. I have never lived there, but my friend said that people who live there are independent. And it's haunted...*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Taylor Swift and T-Swizzle.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Because you're worth it" - L'Oreal.*
What TV genre best describes you? *Fantasy, because I am all about having my own pet dragons and burning my enemies.*
What's your type? *Eddie Redmayne meets Chris Hemsworth.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *My phone, laptop, and my cozy blanket. Basically what my Friday nights entail.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Diner B because it's super loud just like me.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *My bed.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Keytone Lights.*
What's your patronus and why? *Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She has only missed three days on the bench, so if that doesn't scream powerful and dedicated than I don't know what to tell you.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Be able to bring tupperware to Commons to get my food to go, not pay $10 for a box.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Making one of your selfies a meme.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *A MAGA hat.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *The Alexander Hamilton statue.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *All of my Taylor Swift merchandise.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *My chipotle bowl order: white rice, black beans, chicken, sour cream, corn salsa, and guacamole. It's my only order, thus reliable and still delicious.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights off #savetheenvironment.*

Sam Besca '22

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM BESCA '22

Hometown: *New York City*
Home on Campus: *Dunham.*
Major: *Government.*
Turn on? *Meninists.*
Turn off? *Anyone who isn't a meninist.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *I'd say I'm a healthy mix of Milbank and Babbitt. I live for theme parties but also have a tarot card tapestry.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Old Madonna's arms and 2007 Britney Spears. Just a chaotic mess.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *I can't believe I ate the whole thing (Alka-Seltzer).*
What TV genre best describes you? *Netflix limited series, quality times but canceled after one season.*
What's your type? *Shaggy hair, plays the saxophone and also club soccer, likes nature documentaries and Star Wars, is named Corey.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bundy Dining Hall. New on the scene with underrated muffins.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *I wrap myself in bed like a burrito and hibernate.*
What's your patronus and why? *Lindsay Lohan at her resort in Mykonos. I get a protective and nurturing vibe from her in that specific moment.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Candles in my room, oh wait.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Intersectional feminism.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Facebook debates.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *That one squirrel with a stubby tail who isn't afraid of people and definitely has rabies.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Peter Cannavo. I don't even need to explain why he's just great in every way.*
What would your perfect date be? *Going through IKEA and reading out all the table names to summon the dark lords.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *I have a plant named Fred who my mom shipped me. He died in transit but I'm not giving up on him.*
Lights on or lights off? *My roommate has a nightlight so I feel safe either way.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *I feel like I would be really good at Mock Trial but I also hate confrontation and get bad stage fright.*

Looking back at Hamilton's decision to go need-blind on its 10th anniversary

by Elise Wilson '22
Contributing Writer

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Hamilton becoming need-blind in admissions decisions. The Class of 2014 was the first class to go through the College under this policy.

Prior to 2007, Hamilton used $5,000-$10,000 merit scholarships to incentivise enrollment for top students. At the time, the College was officially "need-aware" but not "need-blind," factoring student need into enrollment decisions. As Vice President for Enrollment Management, Monica Inzer proposed new ways to make Hamilton more available to students with financial need, including eliminating merit scholarships. That year, the Board of Trustees voted in favor of the change and accounted for this development in student financial aid policy in the College's budget.

Still, Hamilton remained only "need-aware."

"At a certain point in our process, we'd be overspent in financial aid with our offers of admission, and before we released decisions, we'd pull out students with high financial need," said Inzer.

As a result, Hamilton hired an econometric modeling analyst to study the budget and determine whether going need-blind could be economically sound. Results were positive, and shortly after, former College President Joan Hinde Stewart and senior staff proposed the switch to need-blind to the Trustees.

"Our goal was to have the financial aid to admit the most talented students," Inzer said of the vision, adding that this policy "reflects our values as a college and the values of our namesake."

The Trustees supported the proposal enthusiastically; six pledged $500,000 each at the meeting to discuss the change to need-blind admissions. Over the next year-and-a-half, the College raised $40 million to support the new policy.

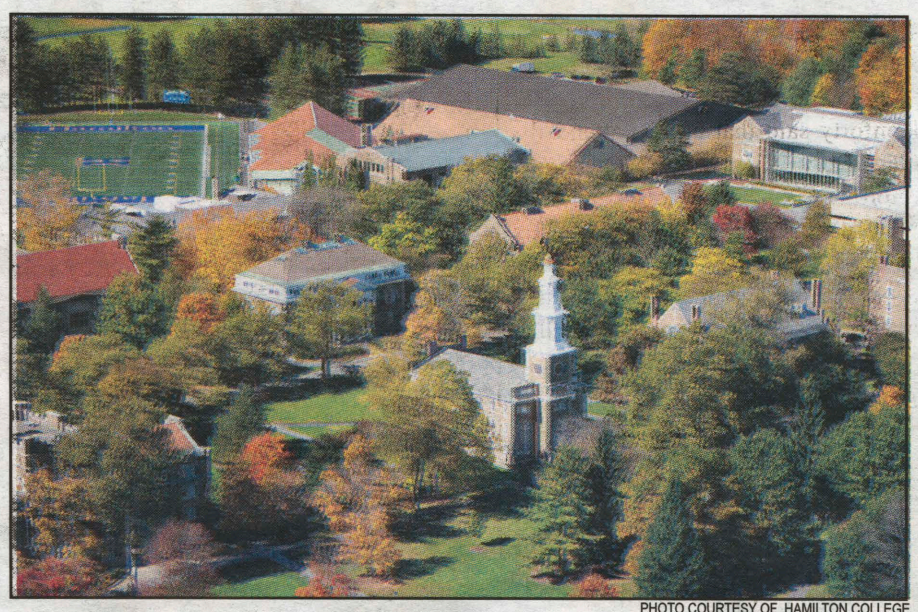

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

A prestigious group: Hamilton is one of only five NESCAC schools with a need-blind admissions policy in place.

Beyond its promise of meeting 100 percent of demonstrated need, Hamilton is currently one of five of eleven NESCAC schools to claim need-blind status for domestic first-year applicants. This list also includes Bowdoin, Middlebury, Williams, and Amherst.

Some students say the financial incentive implicit in Hamilton's need-blind status was a motivating factor for choosing the College.

"Hamilton opened up so many opportunities for me as an individual who comes from a low-income family," Daniella Metti '23 said.

"Financial aid was a big factor for me for choosing Hamilton. It was cheaper for me to go to Hamilton than to go in-state," said Rachel Lu '22. "I have spoken to many other students on financial aid, but I think economic diversity is not always visible at Hamilton."

According to the official Hamilton website, however, the policy does not extend to transfer or international students. It states, "Due to the limited resources available for international students, the Admission Committee cannot be need-blind when evaluating applications from [them]."

Need-blind admission for international students remains a venture few schools have large enough endowments to afford. Forbes says that only five US schools — Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, and Amherst — are need-blind for international students.

"I build the financial aid budget, and I have only have a few little levers on the edge to pull, so if we are way over in financial aid, we might not have financial aid left over for transfer students or international students," Inzer said. However, she noted that since becoming need-blind, the College has spent more on transfer applicants than before the policy was implemented, and it now spends ten percent of the financial aid budget on the non-domestic student population, who make up five percent of the student body.

Inzer called becoming need-blind a "gamechanger" and noted that since becoming need-blind, Hamilton receives "more applicants, more students of color, higher quality students, more geographic diversity, increased alumni pride, an improved reputation, and a higher retention rate."

Additionally, the number of students eligible for Pell Grants, a subsidy from the federal government limited to students with "exceptional financial need," is at a record-high for this year's class of 2023 at 21 percent. Although high-need students now receive more financial aid than before the policy change, the number of students receiving aid has remained about the same at roughly 50 percent each year.

Inzer, citing the Hamilton programs aimed at increasing diversity — Questbridge, Posse, the Hamilton College Opportunity Program (HEOP), and partner programs Say Yes to Education, YES Prep Public Schools, Chicago Scholars, and diversity overnights — noted that "an initiative I care a lot about is not just getting students in our applicant pool, or admitting them, but making sure they have access to an equal experience once they arrive."

Some students have claimed that the College relies on programs like Questbridge, Posse, and HEOP to promote diversity. In response to these critiques, Inzer says that Hamilton does much more and that these programs are only the most visible.

From Where I Sit: Becoming a Part of the Community

Hamilton's International Perspectives Column

by Keshav Rai '23
Contributing Writer

There were "whisperers" throughout my college application process. I had heard the name "Hamilton" mentioned at the 'Diwali' parties and prayer ceremonies — traditional Indian events that provide an excuse for well-to-do professionals to slip their child's Ivy League status into all conversation.

It is either confused frowns or congratulatory expressions that one is greeted with if they mention Hamilton. Those who do not know it will judge and those who do will ask if you have compared it with Colgate. However, I had seen the little 'NY' abbreviation placed misleadingly next to 'Clinton' on Google and went straight for the bait. How could I not apply? A few months later, I was excited to visit the college I had been waitlisted for while simultaneously ruing the day I fell for Google's location-based trickery.

I have traveled to the United States a few times in my life. As an Indian from Mumbai, I have relatives in all corners of the world. New York City is no exception. I have spent weeks, even months of my blissful summer holidays roaming the island of Manhattan with my family. Upstate New York is a far cry from those towering buildings and that indescribable stench of NYC.

At age 13, I was sent to a boarding school in England. That was where my first cultural transition took place, against my will. Hearing an English accent in films is one thing, discerning the tones amongst multiple accents that I had no knowledge of previously was a far greater challenge altogether. It took me years to pick up on the nuances of British culture. I had taken on facets from 'British' and spliced it into my own personality. And when it all clicked, it felt as if I had finally been allowed into a group from which I had previously been alienated. I no longer felt like an outsider.

My life has played out in phases during which my self-perception has been that of Indian, and then British. Coming to the USA, I have prepared for that same transition to occur again, but I am much more willing for it to take place this time.

I arrived at Hamilton with this mentality. All students here are a sum of lived experiences that define them in some way and add to the quality of the Hamilton community. International students are never too far from their home at this college. There are at least a few of us here that share a common country and culture of origin.

During my visit to the College in the spring of this year, I was given a tour by an Indian student, Shanay Wadhwani, the son of my father's acquaintance back in Mumbai. He introduced me to his academic advisor, Andrew Dykstra, who is now my mathematics professor. And he invited me to sit in on his American social movements class led by Professor Britt-Hysell. And strangely enough, I have found myself in that same classroom with the very same professor teaching the American academic essay. It is funny how my visit turned out!

I can attest to the fact that the Hamilton community is tightly knit. Everyone brings something crucial with them and for international students, it is a compilation of their culture to share with students like themselves but also with a bright and accepting student body. I hope that this trait continues to be nourished here as it is vital to the growth of a multicultural liberal arts education beyond the classroom.

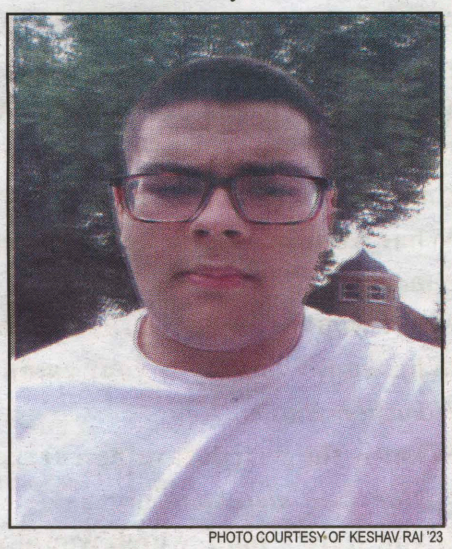

PHOTO COURTESY OF KESHAV RAI '23

'From Where I Sit' is a column dedicated to the voices of international students, immigrant generation students, and students from families where English is not spoken at home.

An autumn tradition: photos and reflections from a fantastic Fall Fest

by Madison Lazenby '23
Contributing Writer

This year's Fall Fest brought together the Hamilton and Clinton communities. On Saturday, Oct. 5, Hamilton College students traveled downhill to the Clinton Village Green for the annual Fall Fest. The event was organized by Hamilton Student Activities, the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Sadove Programming, and Student Assembly's Traditions Committee.

Those in attendance could enjoy numerous activities, including pumpkin painting, a cappella performances, and the Off the Hill Challenge. The Clinton Cider Mill also provided free food and snacks for the event.

Nadav Konforty '20, President of the Class of 2020 and Chair of the Traditions Committee, particularly enjoyed the Cider Mill's contributions to the event, saying, "The limit does not exist on how many Cider [Mill] donuts you can have."

Konforty described his experience organizing Fall Fest as occasionally stressful but ultimately worth the results.

"From where I am right now [...] watching kids painting pumpkins, a cappella was here before, and all this food, *it really feels good that*, especially with Fall Fest, we can facilitate that connection between Hamilton and the greater community," he said. As a senior, Konforty noted that being able to organize Fall Fest as a "full circle moment, but it's bittersweet."

Many students participated in the Off the Hill Challenge, which consisted of visiting a variety of local businesses in order to earn a free "Off the Hill Challenge" t-shirt. The Cremeria, Dawn Marie's Treasures, and Soul Bowl, and many other Clinton establishments hosted stops for the Challenge. A few participating businesses, such as Krizia Martin Apparel & Gifts, offered raffles for students to enter, and Clinton Florists gave each student who visited a free succulent.

Konforty said that he has attended Fall Fest every year that he has been at Hamilton. "I still have the shirt from the Off the Hill Challenge [from] my first year," he said. He also mentioned that he kept the pumpkin that he decorated at his first Fall Fest for "as long as I could, until Winter Break when it started getting gross."

Konforty recalled participating in the Off the Hill Challenge in his first year as a great opportunity to get acquainted with the Clinton community by visiting the local stores.

"It's a really great day when everyone is so open and expecting students to come in," he said. However, he has not completed the Challenge since his first year, stating that, "I think in years after, I didn't want to take the shirts from the first-year students who might want them, but I still went around to the shops."

Nyaari Kothiya '23, a Student Assembly Representative for the Class of 2023 and Traditions Committee member, attended her first Fall Fest this year and also completed the Off the Hill Challenge. Kothiya echoed Konforty's sentiments of experiencing the event for the first time, saying, "It's so good to be out of the Hamilton bubble and actually see people who are not college aged [...] It's a different experience than being up the Hill all the time."

Kothiya's role in organizing Fall Fest this year consisted of putting up posters on the Dark Side of campus and setting up the activities before people arrived. She also stayed back after the event ended to help clean up the Village Green. Kothiya said that she looks forward to both attending and helping organize Fall Fest again next year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Michelle Chung '20 (left) and Ngoc Ngo '20 (right) show off their colorful Off The Hill Challenge t-shirts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Students and members of the Clinton community alike bask in the beautiful weather and get creative at the pumpkin painting table.

Unscramble the following six words:

ONREBK BUDARS

HOILPS DWIOWN

MOLNAR TMROMA

Use your answers from the *highlighted* blanks to answer the joke:

When Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars visit Manhattan, they sleep in a

_____

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

Dawn Marie's Treasures, celebrating the opening of its new location, was one of the stops for the Off the Hill Challenge.

Pollock leads poetry reading and discussion

by Steph Milam '21
Staff Writer

On Monday, Oct. 7, critically-acclaimed poet Iain Haley Pollock visited campus to read from his work and give an informative talk on his experiences, successes, and stylistic choices as a writer.

The son of Classics and Africana Studies Professor Shelley Haley, Pollock shared his personal experiences with students, friends, family, and fellow poets in the audience as he read from *Ghost, Like a Place*, his second published collection of poetry.

His presence on campus was thanks to the hard work and dedication of Professor of Poetry Naomi Guttman, who arranged a personal presentation of Pollock's poetry for her Poetry Workshop class before his evening reading in Dwight Lounge. In both his reading and the classroom Q&A, Pollock discussed his elements of craft and the process of writing.

Nominated for the NAACP Image Award, *Ghost, Like a Place*, expresses the convoluted experience of fatherhood and masculinity and the multidimensional nature of interracial conflicts and social injustices. Pollock elaborated on the presence of his own self and his personal experiences within the characters in his poetry — specifically as a father and a mixed-race child — stating that his works are often depictions of his own experiences but with a touch of fictitious elements.

When reading "Whatever Wilderness Contained There" to the audience, Pollock discussed the role of repetition and syntax in establishing the poem's atmosphere. Reliving an intense conflict with a train conductor over the safety of his wife, Pollock explained how he utilized the frequent repetition of lines like "She is pregnant, she is not standing" in the narrator's dialogue with the conductor to show the persistence and disorientation of the character as he protects his wife's well being. Continually returning to this and other descriptive lines, Pollock discussed how his poem reflects the sort of trance state through which he experienced this conflict in person. He also spoke on how the mixing and matching of the poem's repeated lines manifests the main character's anger and fortitude towards the impending removal of his pregnant wife. Continually questioning "Is this rational?," Pollock discussed how he integrated the feelings of confusion, haziness, and masculine aggravation by using broken syntax and repeated displays of dominance.

Continuing to unpack his own creative process for the class, Pollock read aloud "California Penal Code 484," a poem about his personal experience with the injustices of race-based policing and the complexities of his experience coming from a mixed-race background. The poem starts with the introduction of the narrator and his friends' habit of "borrowing" a bicycle from its unwitting owner. Eventually, his friend Sherod is caught, taken into custody for stealing, and threatened with juvie. Then, the narrator's "white savior" father comes into play, getting his son's friend out of jail and safely back into his everyday life.

Discussing the poem, Pollock talked about his struggle with black identity and the effects of having a white father. Despite recognizing the problematic nature of his father's actions as a "white savior," Pollock showed his multidimensional understanding of the experience, acknowledging that his friend would not have made it out of that situation without the help of the intervening father.

Ending with a Q&A, Pollock responded to various inquiries with lighthearted charm and creative encouragement. When asked about his writing process, he discussed the significance of his own feelings, experiences, and perspectives within his writing. Pollock said that his creative process is based off of his memories told through a fictitious lens, and that fostering creativity can be a transformative experience when done with your own experiences.

Promoting a consideration of the importance of syntax, he ended his talk with a discussion of what makes a good poem: according to Pollock, a good poem is one that makes you feel. Preferring "the heart to the head," he encouraged students to consider what poetry means to them and what it makes them feel, rather than trying to create a work "worthy" of consideration.

"Lessons in Drag" with LaWhore Vagistan

by Lelan O'Brien '23
A&E Contributor

On Monday, Oct. 7, Kareem Khubchandani (LaWhore Vagistan) spoke and performed in the Events Barn. The visit was arranged by Professor Usman Hamid and Professor Mariam Durrani of the Asian Studies and Anthropology Departments, respectively. The event was co-sponsored by the Asian Studies and Anthropology Departments.

By day, Vagistan lives the alter ego of Kareem Khubchandani, an assistant professor in the Theatre, Dance, & Performance Studies Department and the Program in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies at Tufts University. By night, she's a diva in drag.

The night of the event, the Barn filled with an audience of around 75 students & faculty, all of whom were quickly drawn in by Vagistan's dramatic entrance down the balcony staircase. After her opening number, it was clear that Vagistan intended to teach and perform simultaneously.

The term "globalization" was the first slide to be flashed across the screen. Anthropology students in the audience were tasked with explaining the ways in which globalization has affected the Queer, Black, and Asian communities and how the term has evolved. To further the discussion, Vagistan offered a lip-sync performance of "Telephone" by Lady Gaga that was interrupted by a real recording of an Indian call center manager training workers how to speak "American" so they can have higher success rates in their calls.

Vagistan connected this form of globalization to the globalization of gay nightlife, especially with the presence of voguing. Although the lesson's focus was structured around globalization and its impacts, Vagistan also touched on the effect of recent politics. She used Islamaphobia in America, President Trump's "Muslim Ban," shootings that targeted Muslims, and the harassment of US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar as examples of how recent issues regarding islamophobia should no longer be treated with ambivalence by the country at large.

LaWhore incorporated Nicki Minaj and Lizzo (who she called two of the best contemporary feminine theorists) into her performance, in addition to working in a series of academic studies, including some by the late famous theorist José Esteban Muñoz. These academic studies broke down Black, Feminist, and Queer theory, which Vagistan said have more relevance to the words of Lizzo and Minaj than people may think.

With an emphasis on empowerment, equality, and the war on expression, LaWhore's presentation showcased an ability to relate pop culture icons and their work as artists to academic study with the goal of broadening the audience's perspective.

Abigail Moone '23, who said she attended the event because of her interest in Queer and Feminist theory, was as impressed by this as she was taken aback by "the way Queer theory and even Islamaphobia were worked in on top of all the humor."

Moone said what stuck with her the most was "the comedic sexual innuendos, especially with the finger movements" that left the audience crying in laughter and leaving the Events Barn knowing they would never think of the song the same way again. Light-hearted moments were prevalent throughout. When discussing race in media — in Disney films specifically — Vagistan lip-synced "A Whole New World" from Disney's Aladdin.

When asked during the post-performance Q&A with the audience about why, in addition to her comedy and lip-sync numbers, LaWhore chose to educate in her shows, she replied that they "go hand in hand," explaining that that the moment a drag artist steps on stage, they are making a historic statement. She added that she believes everyone has a platform and it is up to them to take advantage of it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLYN FUDGE '23

LaWhore Vagistan performs for students in the Events Barn.

In addition to the lesson and Lawhore's lip-synch numbers, there were 3 costume changes, a karaoke Lizzo-themed intermission, and even a lip-sync battle (as seen on the Emmy Award winning show Rupaul's Drag Race,) which featured 6 members of the audience.

Runner-up in the Battle was Dylan Badillo '23 said he would "like to see more drag outlets and events on campus" due to the inspiration he felt by the conclusion of the event.

Bradley Dixon '20 said a major takeaway from the event was that "everyone has their own way of expressing their identity, and now I'm leaving inspired."

Dixon's favorite part of the show was when Vagistan flashed photos and video of Hamilton's campus behind her as she lip-synced to "It's All Coming Back to Me Now" by Celine Dion.

Badillo said he found it profound how Dr. Vagistan was able to balance the "dichotomy between her professional life at Tufts and her nightlife on the drag stage. I have been reassured by her and how I can, in fact, have a successful law career and still pursue queer culture without it holding me back."

Student Spotlight: Charlie Guterman '22

by Sarah Gyurina '22
A&E Contributor

Charlie Guterman '22 has a knack for creating. A multimedia artist and poet, she finds inspiration in every corner of the universe, from an environmental studies class to a berry she picked from a tree. Since coming to campus in 2018, she has engaged with multiple publications and independent projects, fully taking advantage of the resources that Hamilton offers for students to explore their own artistic talents. *The Spectator* sat down with Guterman this past Sunday to catch up on what has been keeping her hands and mind busy this semester.

***The Spectator*: What kind of creative medium(s) are you most passionate about?**

Charlie Guterman: My absolute favorite medium to work with is charcoal. I love the texture and the physicality of it. I've also been doing more stuff in 3-D and I've been pulling random, non-traditional art materials that I find, like metal and berries, because I like that challenge as well. I also do poetry— I've done it since I was pretty little. I love the intersections of written art and visual art and the rhythms and patterns you can find within the overlap of those.

S: Which piece of work are you most proud of making since coming to Hamilton?

CG: I had this project last spring where I created a multimedia display that investigated concussions and how to best visualize them. I made works in pen, charcoal, and oil paint, as well as an audio piece which was really interesting and challenging for me. I loved the interdisciplinary nature of the project.

S: Where on campus have you taken your talents?

CG: I started working in the visual communications office this semester, doing graphics for them—and that's been a learning process, continuing to grow in my use of Photoshop and Illustrator. I'm on the e-board of Red Weather, I'm the artistic director for Circle Mag, and I often submit my work to those publications as well. And of course I always love making art for my friends!

S: Do you have any projects going on right now?

CG: I have stuff in the works! I'm hopefully going to make some art about physics — specifically about light — with my friend Zach (Jones '22). We are going to be talking about the dichotomy between physics and art, and the artificial separation between them that is often fabricated in the academic world. We'll be using light, which is both a particle and a wave, as a metaphor for the ways physics can be both beautiful and scientific.

S: How has Hamilton supported you in your creative endeavors?

CG: I'm a big believer in utilizing these grants and foundations that very generously support independent projects of students here at Hamilton. So I was funded last semester for my concussion project through the Kirkland Endowment, which is a fund specifically for female students that funds anything from scientific research to creative, artistic work. I'm applying for a few more grants this semester.

S:Are there projects in the future that you'd like to pursue?

CG: Hopefully over winter break, I'll be going to Arizona with a geoscience trip, then staying and doing my own research. I want to talk about time and ownership of land specifically, and I'll create art and potentially write about that in conjunction with geological research. So we'll see if that works out!

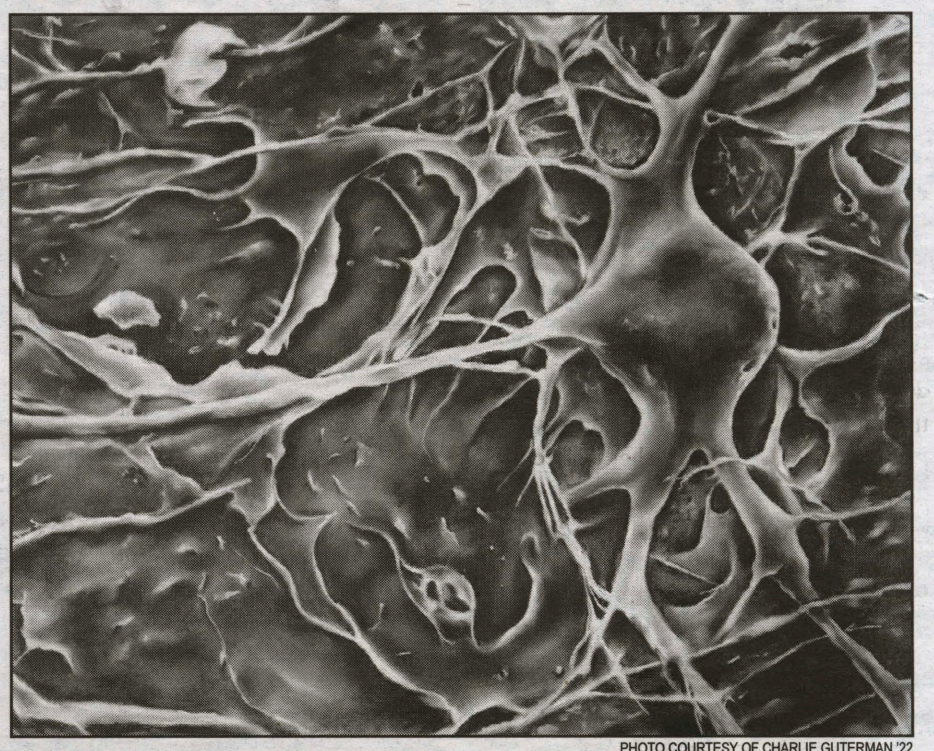

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE GUTERMAN '22

***"Stretch"* (2019) by Charlie Guterman '22. 18"x24" charcoal on paper.**

S:Any classes that have really helped you grow as a creator?

CG: Last year, I took Interpreting the American Environment, which at surface level definitely is not an art or poetry course; it was essentially an environmental history of the United States. I liked how that course made me think in a really interdisciplinary sense and I ended up generating a lot of poetry and art in response to that course. I've loved my drawing and painting courses from a more technical point where I can really hone my skills.

S: What's your dream job when you graduate?

CG: So this is something I've been really excited about! A lot of National Parks in the United States offer "artist in residencies," where you get a stipend to live in the park, creating art about the environment, the people you meet, or history. I love that it's project based because I find that my brain operates in a very project-based way. And I love the independence to pursue a creative vein that I'm passionate about at that time.

S: Do you have any advice for student artists who want to pursue their own creative projects at Hamilton?

CG: Truly we as a collective body aren't aware of the resources that are available to us. There are so many funds and grants—like the Smallen Memorial Fund or the Kirkland Endowment — that can really aid you in an independent study as a creative artist.

Todd Phillip's *Joker* succeeds on many levels

by R.J. Steele '23
A&E Contributor

This past weekend saw the release of the long-anticipated Joker solo film from director Todd Phillips, and with a record-breaking domestic opening weekend of approximately $93.5 million, it seems the months of controversy and hype leading up to the film's release translated into sizeable ticket sales. Ticket sales are one thing but another question looms larger: is *Joker* any good?

This jarring film follows the perilous path of Arthur Fleck, a failing stand-up comic who spends his days in a clown costume spinning a department store sign on the streets of Gotham and his nights watching television with his mother in their shared apartment. We see the ways in which the world has beaten him, broken him, and cast him aside. This societal abuse, combined with a powerful — if occasionally less-than-tactful — portrayal of delusional mental illness, results in Fleck's transformation from a man cast to the outskirts of humanity to the Clown Prince of Crime: Joker.

The success of the film is truly dependent on the performance of its lead, and in this regard, *Joker* surpasses all expectations.

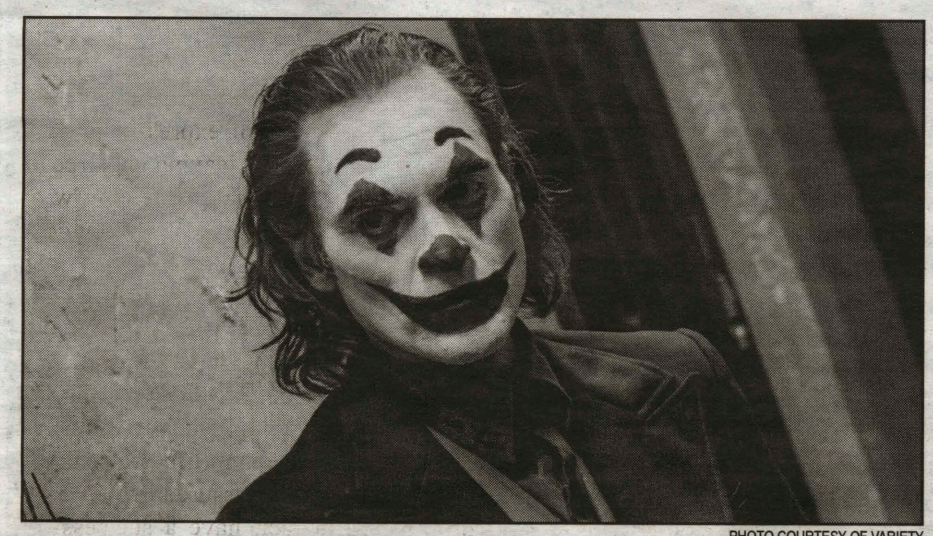

PHOTO COURTESY OF VARIETY

Joaquin Phoenix stuns as Arthur Fleck/the Joker in *Joker*.

Joaquin Phoenix is nothing short of electric in his portrayal of the titular villain, and from the moment he appears on screen, one simply cannot tear their eyes away. While Heath Ledger undoubtedly set a gold standard for portrayals of Batman's most nefarious opponent in The Dark Knight, Phoenix in many ways surpasses his predecessor. Where Ledger's Joker was a frantic psychopath with a penchant for masterminding complex plans, Phoenix's is a man consumed by the horrors of what he is becoming.

The violence in this film is unique, as it completely lacks the coordination or elegance that one expects from a Hollywood blockbuster. Arthur Fleck's murders truly embody this chaotic nature, with the film focusing on the sporadic and explosive bursts with which they occur instead of the sharpness that characterized Ledger's actions. The discussion of this film's use of violence brings us to an area of particular controversy surrounding this movie: many worry that the portrayal of such a compelling villain may result in some people wishing to imitate him. While it is never fair to place the blame of tragedy solely on art or media, one can't help but wonder if the Joker may still be an alluring figure in spite of how pained Phoenix seems in the role.

It is worth noting one other particular area that separates Phoenix's Joker from the rest — his laugh. It is not the maniacal guffaw of Joker's past, but a hoarse, painful thing that Fleck seems to be constantly fighting, as if his laugh is the very essence of the Joker clawing its way up and out of his throat. By the movie's conclusion, when Fleck has passed the point of no return and allowed himself to become the Joker, his laugh comes easily, lilting callously above the rioting masses in Gotham.

While this film could have been deeply compelling with nothing more than Joaquin Phoenix in an empty room, lovers of artistic visuals will find their cravings satiated by the gorgeous-yet-understated cinematography that compliments Arthur Fleck's descent into chaos. Drawing comparisons to films like *Taxi Driver* for more than just its content, one can see clearly how Todd Phillips stands mightily upon the shoulders of giants for his first real attempt at a character study.

In line with the film's other overwhelmingly positive characteristics, *Joker*'s use of sound design is remarkable and contributes to the film's unsettling nature. The grating background tones have a disorienting impact on the viewer, furthering their connection to the lead's unnerving journey.

In short, *Joker* is an outstanding film that will leave audience members unsettled for quite some time. One can only hope that the message this movie offers — a stunning condemnation of its protagonist's violent ways — is not misinterpreted.

FASHION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

AWARDS OF UP TO $35,000

Case Study Competition For Design, Product Development, Merchandising, Marketing, Retailing, Supply Chain, and Analytics

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS OCTOBER 7, 2019

Over 200 Scholarships Awarded Annually

All Expense Paid Trip To New York City

Opportunity To Secure An Internship Or Full Time Job

Engage With Industry Mentors In Design And Business

FASHION SCHOLARSHIP FUND YMA 1937

www.YMAFSF.org / Info@YMAFSF.org

Insta: @fashionscholarshipfund

בס"ד

Chabad Jewish Community
at Hamilton College

Rosh
HASHANAH
at the Chabad JEWISH HAMILY

Join Chabad Student Group for a family-style, warm and welcoming Rosh Hashanah experience.

Sun, Sept 29 (6 pm)
Mon, Sept 30 (6:30 pm)
Traditional brisket dinner

Mon, Sept 30 (10:30 am)
Tues, Oct 1 (10:30 am)
Inspiring and uplifting traditional services
followed by lunch

RSVP at JewishHamily.com/rosh

T.G.I SHABBAT
"THE BEST 4 COURSES AT HAMILTON."
EVERY FRIDAY 6:15 PM @ CHABAD HOUSE
HOME-STYLE SHABBAT.
HOT FOOD. COOL PEOPLE.

JOIN THE CHABAD GROUPME
FOR LATEST UPDATES AND RIDE SHARING INFO.
www.chabadgroupme.com

ONEIDA MOVIEPLEX
RT. 5 & 46 ONEIDA, GLENWOOD SHOPPING PLAZA 315-363-6338
$5.00 ADMISSION 2D SHOWS
ALL DAY TUESDAYS
& BEFORE NOON DAILY
PLUSH RECLINING SEATS
IN ALL AUDITORIUMS
WEDNESDAY
$1 SMALL POPCORN
W/ PAID ADMISSION
MUST SEE MOVIES IN SEPTEMBER
IT CHAPTER TWO
HUSTLERS
ABOMINABLE
AD ASTRA
RAMBO LAST BLOOD
DISCOUNTED STUDENT ADMISSION
$7.50 ANY 2D EVENING SHOW EVERYDAY

STUDY ABROAD IN ENGLISH
THE SWEDISH PROGRAM
Liberal Arts / Stockholm School of Economics
Economics
Politics/Public Policy
Sociology • Psychology
Creative Writing • Film
Art History • Political Science
Music • Food Studies
Literature • History
INFORMATIONAL TABLE
Tuesday, September 17
4 PM Christian-Johnson 305
Progressive City. Prestigious University. Perfect Opportunity.
info@swedishprogram.org www.swedishprogram.org

Field hockey resilient and motivated heading into NESCAC playoff push

by Kelcie Zarle '22
Staff Writer

With five games remaining in the regular season, the Hamilton College field hockey team is focused on making a spirited run at the postseason. After finishing their 2018 campaign with a record of 10–6, the Continentals had high hopes that they would be able to achieve a similar — if not better — record during the 2019 season.

After winning three of their first six games, they now sit at 3–6 overall, but this record is not truly indicative of how the season has played out. Four of those six losses have come in either overtime or double overtime against tough NESCAC opponents. With five games left, however, the team remains hopeful and looks to return to their winning ways.

The team got off to a great start in their home opener at Goodfriend Field on Wednesday, Sept. 4, defeating Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in a 7-0 blowout. During the game, Sarah Pierpoint '21 scored two goals, Michaela Giuttari '20 and Maddie Beitler '21 both scored a goal apiece, and Kathryn Craine '21, Ellie Arnold '22, and Cat Donahue '21 all scored their first career goals.

Though they lost the following two games against Bates College (OT 3-2) and Skidmore College (3-1), the Continentals were then able to record another victory at home against #17 Amherst College, winning 4-1. Goalie Maggie Reville '22 made a career-high six saves during the game, while Beitler, Donahue, Tracey Stafford '23, and Maura Holden '23 all found the back of the cage for their fourth, second, first, and second goals of the season, respectively. The team earned their third win against William Smith on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 3-0, as the dynamic Beitler scored two goals, with Holden adding another. Reville made three saves and, in the process, recorded her first shutout as a Continental.

The win against William Smith marked the last of the team's league game before playing six NESCAC conference games in a row. In the first three against No. 19 Colby College, No. 11 Williams College, and No. 8 Bowdoin College, the Continentals competed in a series of nail biters that all went into overtime. Unfortunately, however, they came out just short of victories in each game.

"We've gone into overtime every NESCAC loss except against Middlebury, so we know we can compete against any nationally-ranked team. It's just a matter of finishing, which is something we need to work on," said Donahue, who scored one of the team's two goals in the 3-2 loss against Bowdoin. "We are pretty young this year with only six upperclassmen, but the team is super energetic and excited. We are ready to take on any opponent and finish the season as strong as possible."

"Our team has been through some ups and downs this year as our record definitely does not reflect our playing ability or individual play," Molly Banks '22 added. "We work hard each day and have great camaraderie within the team. Although we've had some tough battles, we know we're a strong team and have improved great amounts since the beginning of the season."

As both Donahue and Banks noted, team morale remains high as they double down on their focus and determination with playoffs just around the corner. Now that the Continentals are halfway through their NESCAC conference six-game streak, they are looking forward to finishing strong against play Trinity College, No. 7 Tufts University, and Wesleyan University.

This coming weekend, the team will play two games, one against Trinity on the road on Saturday, Oct. 12, and the other against Tufts at home on Sunday, Oct. 13. After that, they will play Wesleyan on Saturday, Oct. 19, Utica College on Wednesday, Oct. 23, Connecticut College on Saturday, Oct. 26 (their last NESCAC match of the regular season), and finally the University of Rochester on Wednesday, Oct. 30.

"We are looking forward to our upcoming games and playoffs where we hope the scores will begin to swing in our favor," Banks said. "We want to show everyone how hard we've been working and prove to others that we are as strong and capable as the rest."

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Maddie Beitler '21 is ranked second in the NESCAC in total goals (7).

Men's and women's golf both qualify for spring NESCAC Championships

by Brent Scholler '21
Staff Writer

Both the men's and women's golf teams had tremendous fall seasons. Both were able to cap off their respective seasons by earning an opportunity to win the NESCAC Championship in the spring after making it through their qualifier tournaments. The teams have positioned themselves for successful spring seasons and look to earn a bid to the NCAA tournament in May.

The teams began the season at the St. Lawrence Invitational at the Oliver D. Appleton Golf Course, where they both finished in 3rd place. The women were led by Maddie Hong '23 and Allie LeeHoffman '23, who shot 154 and 155 respectively in their first tournament as Continentals.

The men were led by Jack Habeeb '22, who shot a first round two-under par-70, and then followed it up with an even par round of 72 for the tournament to finish in second place individually.

The women's team then won their second tournament of the year at the William Smith Invitational at Clifton Springs Country Club. Emily Moy '22 led the team to victory after narrowly losing the individual tournament in a playoff. Strong performances also came from Hong, who shot 160, and Sophia Archos '21, who shot 161.

The second tournament of the year for the men's team was held at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course at Middlebury's Duke Nelson Invitational. The team was again led by Habeeb, who shot 144 for the tournament. Brent Schoeller '21 also impressed with a 149 for the tournament, and Jason Healy '22 had a terrific second round of even par-71 to help the Continentals to a second day score of 293. The team finished in 5th place with a two-day score of 599.

The women then travelled to the Mount Holyoke Invitational at The Orchards Golf Club, where they finished in 6th place.

see Golf, page 16

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Allie LeeHoffman '23 placed 16th out of 33 golfers at the NESCAC Championship Qualifier with a two-day score of 167.

Athlete of the Week: Maggie Reville '22

Maggie Reville '22 had a career-high of 22 saves — the most saves by a Hamilton goaltender since 2012 — in field hockey's overtime loss against Williams last Tuesday. Reville's outstanding performance in the goal to keep the score tied and sent the Continentals into overtime. She is ranked second in the NESCAC for saves with 79 so far this season.

Nicknames: Mags

Hometown: Stamford, CT

Position: Goalie

Favorite Professional Athlete: Henrik Lundqvist

How did you get introduced to field hockey: I started playing in middle school when I was required to play a fall sport. I had knee issues that made it hard to run, so they had me play goalie and I have been playing ever since!

What is your favorite thing to do on campus besides your sport? I like to go to the dining halls on campus with my friends and teammates for "commons hangs." I also enjoy getting to play lacrosse in the spring.

What attracted you to Hamilton's field hockey program? It was all about the people for me. The coaches are so nice, and I really liked all of the people on the team when I came to visit. Also, we have an amazing program and astro field.

What was the toughest obstacle to overcome during athletic career? The toughest obstacles I have had to overcome would be injuries, including an ankle sprain last year, as well as other injuries during the lacrosse season.

What was your favorite sports moment at Hamilton? Winning against Amherst on Goodfriend field with a lot of fans there to support us. I was also able to stop my first penalty stroke of my career.

What are you most looking forward to this season? I most looking forward to hanging out with my teammates and getting to play good, competitive NESCAC games.

If you weren't on the field hockey team, what Hamilton sports team would you want to be on and why? Tennis because being good at tennis is a life skill.

Last Week's Scores: Week of Sept. 30

Women's Volleyball (7-6) on Saturday, Oct. 5 at Bowdoin

	1	2	3	F
Bowdoin	25	25	25	3
Hamilton	18	20	15	0

Women's Volleyball (7-6) on Friday, Oct. 4 at Tufts

	1	2	3	F
Tufts	25	25	25	3
Hamilton	19	15	7	0

Field Hockey (3-6) on Saturday, Oct. 5 at Bowdoin

	1	2	OT	F
Bowdoin	2	0	1	3
Hamilton	0	2	0	2

Women's Rowing on Oct. 5 at Head of the Genesee Regatta: 1st of 10

Men's Rowing on Oct. 5 at Head of the Genesee Regatta : 4th of 9

Football (2-2) on Saturday, Oct. 5 at Trinity

	1	2	3	4	F
Trinity	7	10	7	7	31
Hamilton	6	7	3	8	24

Women's Soccer (7-2-1) on Saturday, Oct. 5 at Bowdoin

	1	2	F
Bowdoin	0	0	0
Hamilton	2	2	4

Women's Soccer (7-2-1) on Wednesday, Oct. 9 vs. Hartwick

	1	2	F
Hartwick	0	0	0
Hamilton	1	4	5

Women's Cross Country on Oct. 5 at Hamilton Invitational: 1st of 7

Men's Cross Country on Oct. 5 at Hamilton Invitational: 1st of 9

Men's Soccer (4-5-1) on Saturday, Oct. 5 at Bowdoin

	1	2	OT	2OT	F
Bowdoin	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0

Men's Soccer (4-5-1) on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at SUNY Poly

	1	2	F
SUNY Poly	0	0	0
Hamilton	2	3	5

Field Hockey (3-6) on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at Williams

	1	2	OT	F
Williams	1	0	1	2
Hamilton	0	1	0	1

Women's Golf on Oct. 5 at NESCAC championship qualifier: 4th of 6

Women's Golf on Oct. 6 at NESCAC championship qualifier: 4th of 6

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
October 10, 2019

Men's and women's golf will head to NESCAC Championships in 2020

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Following through: Jack Habeeb '22 led the men's team in individual scores at three of their four tournaments this season.

from ***Golf****, page 14*

LeeHoffman had the highest scores of 81 and 80 for a two-day total of 161. Molly Healey '22 and Hong also helped the team with two-day scores of 165 and 166, respectively.

The men were next onto Williams to compete in the Williams Fall Invitational at Taconic Golf Club, where they tied for 8th out of 25 teams. It was another great weekend for Habeeb, who lost in a playoff to last year's national champion Sam Goldenring from Williams after shooting a two-under 69 in the first round and a one-over 72 in the second. Schoeller and Jack McKeon '22 shot 154 and 156 for the tournament, respectively.

The following weekend, the women hit the green at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course, where they played in the George Phinney Classic. The team finished in 6th place and was again led by LeeHoffman, who had a second round of 76. Moy and Hong also added valuable contributions, shooting 167 and 168, respectively. The women competed in the NESCAC Championship Qualifier the following weekend at Taconic Golf Club, hosted by Williams College.

The men were next at the Sandy Burr Country Club, where Tufts University hosted the NESCAC Championship Qualifier; the top four teams qualified for the Championship in the spring. The team finished 3rd out of 10 teams to qualify for the Championship and were led by McKeon and Billy Geach '23, who both shot 147.

The women finished 4th at the NESCAC Championship Qualifier to guarantee their own spot for the spring championship. The team was once again led by Hong and LeeHoffman, who both shot 167.

The men will be back in action on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the annual Ekwanok Tournament at the Ekwanok Country Club in Vermont. There, they will compete against Middlebury College, Trinity College, and Williams College.

Volleyball settles into conference play after winning 7 of 10 to start season

by Rebecca Wachen '22
Contributing Writer

The Hamilton College women's volleyball team has officially reached the halfway point of their 2019 season after a weekend of play against two tough NESCAC opponents. The Continentals have started the 2019 season on a strong note, posting a 7-3 record in their first ten games.

The team entered NESCAC conference play on a four-game win streak, and extended that mark to five games after a 3-1 victory over Trinity. The streak was snapped, however, during Family Weekend when the Continentals suffered a 3-0 loss to the Williams College Ephs. The Continentals hoped to regain their winning momentum this past weekend, as they travelled to play two NESCAC opponents.

On Friday, Oct. 4, the Continentals took the court in Medford, Massachusetts to take on Tufts University. The Jumbos, ranked 17th in the nation by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, came into the match undefeated in both conference and non-conference play. Tufts played to their skill in the match, posing a .412 hitting percentage compared to Hamilton's .090.

The first set consisted of Hamilton using two of its timeouts early on to stay organized and focused. The timeouts seemed to help, as the team was eventually able to cut Tufts' lead down to two with help from two kills from Deirdre Corrigan '23 and an ace by Kendall Searcy '20. The Continentals were unable to fully catch up, however, and lost the set 25-19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSH MCKEE

Nikki Matsouka '21 (above) is currently ranked 3rd in the NESCAC in digs per set with an average of 5.14.

The second set started off in Hamilton's favor, but after Tufts got eight consecutive points, the team could not regain the lead. Tufts took the second set 25-15 and continued to dominate in the third set, holding Hamilton to just seven points. The Jumbos quickly closed out the third set to take the match in straight sets.

Despite the team's loss, Hamilton was still able to put up strong individual numbers. Giuliana Rankin '20 led the team with nine kills and also put up a solo block. Rankin is currently ranked fourth in the NESCAC in kills per set with 3.26. Nikki Matsuoka '21 lead both the Continentals and the Jumbos in digs with 15. Matsuoka is ranked third in the NESCAC in digs per set with 5.14.

The following day, Oct. 5, the Continentals hit the road again, this time headed for Brunswick, Maine to take on the Bowdoin College Polar Bears in another NESCAC match.

The play was even in the first set with nine ties at the start of the match to make the score 11-11. The Polar Bears then went on a four-point run, and the Continentals could not catch up.

The team regained their focus going into the second set. It began in a similar fashion to the first set with nine ties and five lead changes. The Continentals were able to match Bowdoin most of the way, and the score eventually reached 20-20. The Polar Bears, however, won the next five points to secure the second set.

Bowdoin's momentum continued into the third set, as they took an early 10-3 lead. Hamilton called a timeout, but Bowdoin did not lose their focus coming out of the break. The Polar Bears quickly won the third set 25-15 to take the match victory.

This past weekend's matches did not go in Hamilton's favor, but the Continentals have a chance to redeem themselves soon. They will attempt to defend their home court in Margaret Bundy Scott Field House this weekend against two more NESCAC opponents. Hamilton takes on Bates College this Friday, Oct. 11, at 7 PM, and the following day the Continentals take on Colby College at 2 PM.